NOTES AND EXTRACTS.

COLD WEATHER IN THE ARCTIC AND TEMPERATE ZONE.

The records received early in 1903 from the Klondike region showed that an unusually long cold spell was prevailing in that region accompanied by calm air and at the beginning clear weather gradually changing to a dense cold fog. This was apparently the edge of an unusually extensive area of cold air in northern America. From this region there has been a steady flow of north winds and dry cold air up to the middle of May. As an inevitable result, immense quantities of icebergs, floes, and field ice have drifted down from Davis Straits and extensive ice fields have been passing out of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. A correspondent of the London Post states that the British Meteorological Office has for a year past been investigating the variations in the temperature of the surface water of the Atlantic, and that "about the middle of December, a singular change of temperature was detected near the fiftieth parallel of latitude, between longitudes 20° and 40° west where instead of a water temperature of 50° or 60° the thermometer dropped below 40°, and even 32° F. over regions of deep water." He adds that it is a question whether "similar abnormal fluctuations of water temperature in this region are a sort of measure of the character of the coming ice drift from the Arctic down to Newfoundland."

METEOROLOGY AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE FRENCH ASSOCIATION.

In connection with the approaching meeting of the French Association for the Advancement of Science, to be held at Angers on the 4th of August, 1903, the president of the meteorological section, Mr. B. Brunhes, Director of the Meteorological Observatory of the Puy de Dome, Clermont-Ferrand, France, makes the following announcement:

Called to preside over Section VII of the Congress, I have the honor to beg you to kindly lend your cooperation to the work of this section, either by assisting at the Congress in person, or, if that is not possible, by at least sending a communication on some subject bearing on the meteorology and physics of the globe.

Full liberty is given you in the choice of your subject, provided that it relates to the science of the atmosphere and to terrestrial physics in their most general acceptation. Memoirs relative to seismic phenomena, terrestrial magnetism, and atmospheric electricity will be especially acceptable.

In order to conform to traditional usage, I take the liberty of placing before you two propositions in meteorology, on which it would be especially interesting to receive reports and possibly to publish them.

1. Forecasting of storms by a process based upon the use of radio conductors. [i. e. Natural signals caught by the apparatus used in wireless telegraphy.—ED.]

2. Origin, direction of rotation, method of propagation and destructive effects of aerial cyclones in the temperate regions and of vortices in currents of water.

Recent important works have directed attention to the analogies and differences between the vortex motions produced in air and in water, on the one hand and on the other hand to the damage caused by running water, and to the various possible explanations of the want of symmetry observed in its action upon the opposite banks of the rivers of our regions. Every accurate and well made personal observation relating to these subjects would be most valuable, however brief it might be, or however insignificant it might appear to the author.

If the communications presented are of sufficient importance to render the discussion so interesting as to attract the attention of persons belonging to other sections of the Congress. I will arrange with the presidents of these sections, notably of the section of pure physics and that of geography, to form joint sessions of the sections interested.

Therefore, whether you desire to devote your contribution to the study of either of the two subjects mentioned, or to treat of a different subject, I will be very grateful if you will communicate to me immediately, or, if it be possible, within a month or six weeks, the title of the papers that you propose to submit to the Congress in order that they may be included in the first provisional program of the business of the session, which will be published shortly.

NOT A TORNADO ON MAY 26.

Under date of May 27, 1903, Mr. George M. Chappel, Local Forecast Official, Des Moines, Iowa, writes as follows:

Referring to articles in this morning's Register and Leader relative to the storm which passed over this city on May 26, I have to say that the statements are overdrawn—that is, in regard to the character of the storm. It was nothing more than a thunder squall, the wind attaining a velocity of 38 miles per hour from the northwest. Personal examination by Mr. J. R. Sage and myself shows that there is positively no indication of any of the characteristics of a tornado. The section of the city where most of the damage was done is known as South Des Moines, being on the south side of the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers. There is a high bluff about 1500 to 2000 feet south of the river, which runs parallel with the river east and west. The wind, coming from the northwest, was deflected by this bluff, and the small, light structures near the base of the hill were demolished. There was no damage done to any substantial, well constructed buildings, except having some window glass broken.

EXHIBITION OF METEOROLOGICAL APPARATUS AT SOUTHPORT, ENGLAND.

Mr. W. N. Shaw, Director of the Meteorological Office, London, announces that—

In connection with the meeting of the International Meteorological Committee at Southport during the session of the British Association in September next, it is proposed to make arrangements for an exhibition of meteorological appliances and other objects of meteorological interest.

Upon the initiative of the Meteorological Council, with the cooperation of the Royal Meteorological Society and the Scottish Meteorological Society, who have appointed representative members, a committee has been formed to carry out this proposal.

In order to divide the work of collection and organization, it is proposed to group the exhibits into four classes. Those who are willing to cooperate are requested to communicate at once with the gentlemen named below, who have kindly undertaken to receive, on behalf of the committee, intimations and suggestions as to objects of meteorological interest proposed for exhibition:

A. Meteorological Statistics, Dr. H. R. Mill, 62 Camden Square, London, NW.

B. Weather Telegraphy, Mr. W. N. Shaw, 63 Victoria street, London, SW.

C. Atmospheric Physics, Capt. Wilson Barker, H. M. S. *Worcester*, Greenhithe, Kent.

Including (a) Meteorological photography.
(b) Instruments and instrumental records.
(c) High-level stations, balloons, and kites; observations and records.
(d) Experimental illustrations.

D. The relation of Meteorology to other branches of Physics, Mr. A. R. Hinks, The Observatory, Cambridge, England.

INTERNATIONAL AERIAL RESEARCH.

According to Nature, May 28, 1903, "international scientific balloon ascents were made on the morning of March 5; some of the balloons were manned and others equipped with recording instruments only, while at some stations kites were used. We quote only the preliminary results of the registering balloons, as these attained the greatest altitudes. At Trappes, near Paris, a temperature of —49.8° C. was registered at 10,000 meters; the reading at starting was 9.6°, and an inversion of 0.2° occurred at 750 meters. The balloon rose to 15,700 meters, but as readings at higher altitudes than those quoted are suspected of being vitiated by radiation, they are scrupulously rejected. At Strasburg the temperature at starting was 6.3°, and the following readings were recorded: —59.1° at 15,600 meters; —54.0° at 10,300 meters; —51.5° at 12,200 meters. A second balloon on March 6 recorded —62.1° at 15,330 meters; —51.2° at 10,200 meters, and —48.2° at 11,300 meters. At Berlin the following temperatures were recorded: —57.0° at 10,400 meters; —51.0° at 12,000 meters; at starting 4.4°. The type of weather was cyclonic over the British Isles and west of Scandinavia, and anticyclonic over southwest France and eastern Russia."